

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION

ORDER NO. R7-2003-0009

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
CITY OF EL CENTRO, OWNER/OPERATOR
WASTEWATER STANDBY BASINS
El Centro- Imperial County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, finds that:

1. The City of El Centro (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 1275 Main Street, El Centro, California 92243, submitted an application on January 21, 2003 to update the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order for the Wastewater Standby Basins.
2. The discharger owns and operates a sewage collection, treatment and disposal system and serves the City of El Centro. The wastewater treatment plant is located at 2255 La Brucherie Road, El Centro, California 92243, in the center of Section 25, T15S, R13E, SBB&M. Occasionally, during an emergency and/or routine maintenance, a maximum of 5.0 million gallons-per-day (gpd) wastewater is discharged into 16 acres of earthen basins for temporary storage. The standby basins are located adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant in the S ½ of Section 25, T15S, R13E, SBB&M.
3. This discharge has been subject WDRs adopted in Board Order 91-039.
4. The wastewater is normally treated in an activated sludge type treatment plant and discharged into Central Drain in accordance with WDRs contained in Order No. 99-004 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104426).
5. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan), as amended to date, designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
6. The designated beneficial uses of ground waters in the Imperial Hydrologic Unit are:
 - a. Municipal supply (MUN)
 - b. Industrial supply (IND)
7. Within the Imperial Valley area of the Imperial Hydrologic Unit, much of the ground water is too saline for municipal use. The existing municipal use in this area is practically inconsequential.
8. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of the standby basins described in Finding No. 2, above.
9. The monitoring and reporting requirements in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0009 is necessary to determine compliance with these WDRs and to determine the facility's impacts, if any, on receiving water.
10. This Board Order updates the WDRs to comply with the current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.
11. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these WDRs, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or

no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.).

12. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update WDRs for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
13. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 91-039 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any wastewater from the standby basins to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Bypass, overflow, or discharge of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
3. The discharge of waste to land not owned or controlled by the discharger is prohibited.
4. The discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the design treatment capacity of the disposal system.

B. Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes from the facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Section 13050(l) and 13050(m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. A minimum depth of freeboard of two (2) feet shall be maintained at all times in the standby basins.
3. Public contact with non-disinfected wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives.
4. The standby basins shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes, in particular:
 - a. An erosion control program should assure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface;
 - b. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the standby basins inoperable;
 - c. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.
 - d. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.
5. The standby basins shall be maintained so they will be kept in aerobic conditions.
6. There shall be no surface flow of sewage away from the designated disposal area or into any drainage channel, other than in accordance with Board Order No. 99-004 (NPDES Permit No. CA0104426).

C. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program No. R7-2003-0009, and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any modifications in this facility, which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
3. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
6. The discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Any noncompliance with this Board Order constitutes a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action.
7. The discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. The discharger shall immediately report orally information of the noncompliance as soon as (1) the discharger has knowledge of the discharge, (2) notification is possible, and (3) notification can be provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures, to the Regional Board office and the Office of Emergency Services. During non-business hours, the discharger shall leave a message on the Regional Board office voice recorder. A written report shall also be provided within five (5) business days of the time the discharger becomes aware of the incident. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, the anticipated time to achieve full compliance, and the steps taken or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.
8. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
 - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order.
 - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order.
 - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
 - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
9. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order, for a period of at least 5 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application.
10. The discharger is the responsible party for the WDRs and the monitoring and reporting program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these WDRs. Violations may result in

enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in modification or revocation of these WDRs by the Regional Board.

11. The discharger shall report all instances of noncompliance. Reports of noncompliance shall be submitted with the discharger's next scheduled self-monitoring report or earlier if requested by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, or if required by an applicable standard for sludge use and disposal
12. This Board Order does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
13. This Board Order may be modified, rescinded and reissued, for cause. The filing of a request by the discharger for a Board Order modification, rescission and reissuance, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification include the promulgation of new regulations, modification of land application plans, or modification in sludge use or disposal practices, or adoption of new regulations by the State Board or the Regional Board, including revisions to the Basin Plan.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on May 7, 2003.

Executive Officer